

County Councillor Annual Report 2022/23

This report summarises the activities of the following member of the County Council during 2022/23

Name of Councillor

Ozzy O'Shea

Division Represented

Groby, Ratby and Field Head.

Electoral Division activities

Main Activities and the impact during the past year:

Over the past year I have continued to work with Highways officers and with developers to reduce the impact of road closures on Markfield Road, Ratby. We have been constantly impacted with numerous developments passed by the local planning authority on Markfield Road. None have been popular with the community. I have kept the community fully updated on the road closures of which there have been several including a 4-week total closure. We have two major developments taking place at the same time. Ratby has had numerous road works on all 3 major roads in the village and I have worked with our Network Management team to keep them to a minimum. I am pleased to report that the VAS sign that I ordered from my members highway fund to warn motorists on the approach to the school zebra crossing on Main Street Ratby that shows two children, and a flashing school crossing picture is now in place. I have also had double yellow lines put along the library side of Main Street, to give a better and safer view of the crossing.

HGV's

I have continued to liaise with both the police and highways officers regarding the ongoing problem with HGV'S breaking the weight limit coming through Main Street, Ratby to attend the Pound Stretcher warehouse in Desford. Several drivers have been spoken to

New Doctor's Surgery

I have supported the development of the new doctor's surgery, which is located on Desford Lane, Ratby. I worked with both the Borough Councils planning department and County Highways. I have had several meetings of the past year regarding Highways matters including the position of speed ramps and road works. There have been several sets of road works under traffic light control to allow utilities to connect the services. I have worked with highways officers to keep these to a minimum and put suggestions forward that two different utilities could do their work at the same time to keep the road works to a minimum. I work closely with network management with regards to road works in my ward especially, Ratby due to the number of different developments taking place in the village.

Burroughs Road, Ratby.

Burroughs Road, Ratby has been closed to traffic for the past 5 months due severe road damage caused by heavy vehicles.

I am currently working with the Assistant Director of highways to get repairs carried out to the Burroughs Road in Ratby this road is a bridle road with 5 houses at the far end. It has been used by Preston's Farm as an entrance to one of their fields where they have created a massive slurry pit for silage. Unfortunately, they have used it on an industrial basis with heavy tractors pulling tankers full of silage to tip on site some days constantly one after another. I have held meeting with senior highways officers, Mr Preston, and the parish Council. Mr Preston had agreed to put passing points in. I have successfully worked with Highways to get the Highway Authority maintained area of road repaired. That work should start in July

Ratby Library.

As previously reported, I had been made aware by the Chair of the Ratby Library group that they were in financial difficulties. I met with the Chair and the Library committee and our Local MP Dr Luke Evans. I also met with the cabinet member for libraries and officers from that department and the library trustees offering support. I am pleased to report that the trustees working with the community and the Library Group have been able to reverse their notice to hand back the library and are now working successfully which is a great relief to the village and a credit to them.

Groby Flood Alleviation Project.

I am continuing to work with residents, Severn Trent Water and Highways officers to resolve the flooding on Leicester Road and Ratby Road, Groby. I attend 3 monthly progress meetings at Severn Trent's Leicester Office. I am pleased to report that We are moving forward now. Flooding on Leicester Road, Groby dates all the way back to 1993. After working with residents and Severn Trent and our Highways drainage team for the past 5 years We are finally making progress. Severn Trent now have an excellent project

manager in place she has secured funding Works on removing 5 trees on Leicester Road took place just before the bird nesting season took place. The two Sites are Leicester Road and Ratby Road, Groby I have liaised with the Borough Councils Green spaces team and had a site meeting with them and Severn Trent to secure a works compound on part of Groby pool car park. The work is likely to start in September as this is the earliest that Cadent can start the work involving moving the gas main on Ratby Road near to the junction of Markfield Road, prior to Severn Trent carrying their work. There will be a lot of traffic disruption both at this location and at the second location on Leicester Road near to Marston Drive. However, I am sure that residents will be pleased, that the work we have done over the past 5 years is coming to fruition, I will as always keep residents and the Parish Council fully update with my regular monthly reports and on social media. I will also work with Severn Trent to make sure a letter drops are done in the area to notify residents of impending road works.

I have also supported Groby Parish Council with additional vehicle activation signs (VAS) and posts. I have also supported the Parish Council with various other requests including a bench from my Members Highway Fund that ceased this April.

Policing.

In February and March this year I worked with the Local Beat team in Groby after a series of burglaries involving domestic dwellings. I arranged for the part night street lighting to be put on full time for a period of three months to allow the police to carry out their enquiries. I also arranged permission for the local neighbourhood watch to put their signs on lamp posts.

On Tuesday 16th May I met Police Insp Steve Palmer at County Hall to discuss issues within my ward. We discussed burglaries which had occurred mainly in Groby, and he assured me that extra resources had been put in place and an arrest had been made. However, there is an ongoing issue in Ratby with shed and garage breaks, where pedal cycles are being taken and a motorcycle. They have mainly occurred in the early hours over weekends. I am pleased to say, the police have been passed details of possible suspects for these offences. I would urge all residents to make sure that their sheds and garages are locked securely. Another of the issues we discussed was the increased ASB in Ratby and the increased number of electric scooters in Groby and Ratby. I am always pushing for extra police resources for my ward, I am pleased to report that we have been allocated another police officer Pc Amy Cunningham, Amy replaces Pc Greg Rawisinski on the beat team. We have also been allocated a further PCSO, Grace Muldoon. Two excellent officers. Residents know that I work closely with the police team and will do my best to keep them updated on current issues. I would like to welcome Amy and Grace to the team.

Footpath Newtown Linford Lane, Groby.

I am pleased to report that I have been working with Highways and Hanson's, who own the Groby Quarry. Highways have been cutting the overgrowth and bushes back. They have also improved the footpaths going past Groby pool and stoned the path past the weir unfortunately the footpath only goes so far before it diverts through the fields. The cost of a footpath from Groby to Newtown Linford is far too prohibited. I have secured this work using approximately £31,000 out of my Members Highways Fund and a Community donation from Hanson's. I had several requests from residents regarding the overgrown bushes impeding the footpath and the state of the current footpath in places. I thought this would be a very worthwhile project giving better access to all including wheelchairs. For the last 2 years members were allocated £25,000 to use in their wards. Unfortunately, the members Highway fund closed this April. However, Groby Parish has done very well out of the fund receiving additional speed activated signs that are moved around by the parish council. The work on the this footpath should be completed by the end of August.

Over the past year I have worked with the residents of Field Head who are objecting to large scale planning application. I have held regular meetings with the residents group giving them advice on highways matters.

Community Leadership Role

I go to the Ratby village hall drop-in session on a Thursday morning where elderly pensioners go for a cup of tea and a chat. I see if anyone has any needs from social services. I also advise on scams or housing issues. I work very closely with our police beat team on issues such as ASB, speeding HGV's and drug taking. I have invited the police to give talks to residents at the drop-in session. I have continued to work on ASB at Groby Pool and met the police on site. I continue to work with the police on ASB in Groby and Ratby. Being a retired police officer, I know how important it is to nip these problems in the bud before they become a bigger problem and have an excellent relationship with the local beat team. As I reported last year, I have worked with my local schools to have the mandatory no parking Zig Zag lines put outside schools that wanted them. They are now all in place and our camera car enforces them. I attend Ratby and Groby Parish Council meeting each month and provide both a written and verbal report as their County Councillor.

Engagement with the Council, other statutory bodies and public utility companies (Water, Gas etc) about services in the area

I engage regularly with all Council Departments including Highways, Education and Adults and Communities. I work closely with all departments; I have helped several vulnerable residents whom I have personally classed as vulnerable and referred them to the correct department for support. I have successfully worked with Highways officers to secure SEND transport for several children in both my ward and the across the County as Cabinet Member for Highways.

I work very closely with our Trading Standards department highlighting current scams to my community and referring elderly vulnerable people to them that have had scam calls and arranged to have telephone blockers fitted for them.

I hold 3 monthly meeting with Severn Trent regarding on going works in my ward so I can keep residents updated. I hold regular meetings with both the Borough Councils ASB team and Housing team to directly sort issues out for residents. I also work with the Borough Councils benefits and Council tax team for residents. Many residents do not understand the difference between the Borough Council and the County Councils responsibilities. I will never pass people from pillar to post I take ownership and deal with the issue at had to the best of my ability.

Priorities for the immediate future are:

To get the road between Kirby Muxloe and Ratby Resurfaced when funds become available.

Council Activities

County Council Committees You Served On

Cabinet Member for Highways Transportation and Flooding.

Local Committee/Outside Bodies

I sit on the A5 partnership
The A46 Partnership
Bradgate and Groby Quarry liaison committee
Charnwood Forest Committee
Transport for East Midlands.

Learning and Development

I have attended local police briefings.
I have attended Chief Constables briefing
I attend regular HS2 briefing
Freeport briefing
Strategic Growth Plan
Star Chamber Briefing Highways Financing
All Member briefings

Other Matters

I attend a weekly Lead member meeting with the Director and two Assistant Directors of Highways and Heads of Service.

I attend site meetings around the county. I also meet fellow councillors around the county to discuss highway concerns in their area with highways officers.

I have attended Midlands Connect meeting on line and around the midlands.

As lead Member I was proud to launch The Living Water Programme at the County Councils Croft Depot in June 2022. Plants and artificially created salt marshes are being used to clean oils, diesel, and chemicals in water from road gullies in a new environmental scheme. A weir system will drain the water through straw before it is passed to ponds where salt marsh plants remove the remaining pollutants. Straw is a natural filter

which removes a high percentage of oils, hydrocarbons, salts, and silt, while the bacteria and micro-organisms that live in the salt marsh plants can also remove pollutants.

After the filtering process, the clean water will slow into Broughton Astley Brook which feeds into the river Soar. Solid waste such as stones, sand, metals, and plastics will be removed and recycled, with some being used in Land restoration projects. In May 2023 I had the pleasure of welcoming a group from Croft Primary school to the Depot they had come to be shown and explained the working of the Living Water Programme as part of their science work

Over the past year I have personally dealt with over 120 highways enquiries/complaints both within my ward and across Leicestershire as the lead member. Residents regularly contact me directly with their complaints as the lead member.

I have also attended numerous site visits around the county, meeting councillors in their own wards to discuss their local highways issues.

Communications

I write a regular monthly article in both the Local magazine that goes to Ratby and the Spotlight magazine that goes to Groby and Fieldhead. I keep residents updated on local issues, I warn of current scams and any police reports that are relevant. I work closely with Trading Standards and the police. I provide a monthly report to my Parish Councils. I also use spotted Ratby and Spotted Groby for urgent Facebook posts. I also have my own Councillors Facebook Page.

Signed by Councillor:- Ozzy O'shea

Date:- 24th June 2023